

Health and Science Research

Request for Proposals

TOPIC

Impact of Policies and Regulations for Tobacco Harm-Reduction (THR) Products on Smoking Trends and Public Health and Economic Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)

Issue date	September 26, 2022
Closing date	November 7, 2022
Closing time	12:00 noon, UK Time
Submit proposals to	(See submission instructions in RFP)
Financing instrument	Grant
Financing amount	Budget not to exceed US \$500,000 Paid in US dollars, amount consistent with proposal and work plan
Financing duration	Maximum of 12 months, consistent with proposal and work plan
Contact information	support@smokefreeworld.org

Introduction

Globally, the use and availability of tobacco harm-reduction (THR) products have been subject to a variety of policies and regulations, ranging from complete bans to risk-proportionate restrictions. Often, misinformation and misunderstanding about the relative health risks of these products have influenced policy decisions, which in turn affect public perception and use. There is a lack of consensus among researchers in this area. One body of research concludes that shifting demand from combustible cigarettes to e-cigarettes would reduce health risks and promote cessation of combustible tobacco use.¹²³ Other research finds that use of THR products does not promote cessation and that their availability on the market may stimulate tobacco smoking uptake by nonusers, including youth.⁴ From an economic perspective, substitution of THR products for combustible tobacco products poses financial risks to governments that rely on excise tax revenues garnered from sales of combustible cigarettes.

Globally, there is no agreement on how THR products should be regulated, especially given the competing interests of public health and the revenues generated through tobacco taxation.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (“the Foundation”) is inviting proposals to conduct an economic analysis relating specifically to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) of the consequences of the current regulatory environment on THR. This analysis should examine the best alternative regulatory options to improve both public health and economic outcomes.

¹. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11166-020-09330-9>

² <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2022.102676>

³ <https://doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2017-053759>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2017-053759>

Objective: Develop a white paper and at least two articles outlining the findings of an economic analysis, specifically relating to LMICs, of the impacts of current and possible alternative regulatory approaches for THR products on public health and economic outcomes.

Deliverables

- White paper investigating the impacts of current and alternative policy approaches for THR products
- At least two articles, to be submitted for publication to peer-reviewed journals'

The analysis should address the following specific areas:

- Initiation, cessation, and prevalence of combustible tobacco and products
- Government revenues and expenditures
- Illicit trade in tobacco and nicotine products
- Societal benefits and costs

Methodology

Researchers can use secondary data sources or perform primary data collection, as needed. Although sophisticated descriptive analysis and time-trend analysis are useful, experimental and quasi-experimental study designs or structural form econometric modeling that support causal inferences about policies and outcomes of interest are preferred.

Expected Qualifications

Eligible institutions include research think tanks, universities, and NGOs in developing countries with research experience in economics and related modeling, tobacco control, and related disciplines. NGOs in high-income countries are eligible to apply provided they establish collaboration with their counterparts in LMICs. Proposals should be submitted by entities registered in their country of origin with an ability to accept research grants from not-for-profit foundations incorporated in the United States.

Geographic Focus

Global

Estimated budget and duration

- Budget not to exceed US \$500,000
- Duration not to exceed 12 months

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate submissions:

- Expertise and prior experience, including demonstrated experience on similar projects
- Research presence
- Ability to meet the objectives of the RFP
- Cost and timeline
- Adequate resources (quantity and type) to satisfy project scope and timeline
- Key organizational documents provided to the Foundation as part of the due diligence process, as outlined in [Grant Policies and Procedures](#)

The Foundation will prioritize proposals that demonstrate a commitment to our values, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that provide the Foundation with the opportunity to interact with diverse teams, bringing together a range of perspectives.

Submission Instructions

Applications should be submitted through the Foundation’s online portal, which can be accessed [here](#). This link will start the new application form. Upon clicking the link, you will be prompted to log in, and then taken to the application form.

The application form has links to three templates, which are also listed here for your convenience:

- [Proposal template](#)
- [Budget template](#)
- [Work plan template](#)

You may save your application at any time by using the Save & Finish Later button at the end of each page.

To return to an in-progress application, [log in to the portal](#).

A list of application portal FAQs can be found [here](#).

If you have any technical issues, please contact the grants management team via support@smokefreeworld.org, and we will be happy to help.

Key Information

The Foundation may disclose proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted in response to this RFP to its employees, consultants, legal counsel, contractors, and potential co-funders. The applicant should carefully consider the content of submitted materials if there is any concern about the impact of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information. Although submissions will not be disclosed publicly during the evaluation process, all funded

projects (scoping and final awards) will be made public. The Foundation will work with awardees to ensure that any materials made public will not disclose any protected information.

To be considered for an award, the applicant agrees that the Foundation may:

- Amend or cancel the RFP, in whole or in part, at any time
- Extend the deadline for submitting responses
- Determine whether a response does or does not substantially comply with the requirements of the RFP
- Issue multiple awards

The applicant must ensure that it has responded to the RFP with complete honesty and accuracy. If information in the applicant's response changes, the applicant will supplement its response in writing with any deletions, additions, or changes within five days of the change. Any material misrepresentation, including omissions, may disqualify the applicant from consideration for an award.

About Foundation for a Smoke-Free World

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World is an independent, US nonprofit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) private foundation with the purpose of improving global health by ending smoking in this generation. The Foundation supports its mission through three core pillars: Health and Science Research; Agriculture Diversification; and Industry Transformation. Funded by annual gifts from PMI Global Services Inc. ("PMI"), the Foundation is independent from PMI and operates in a manner that ensures its independence from the influence of any commercial entity. Under the Foundation's [Pledge Agreement](#) with PMI and [bylaws](#), PMI and the tobacco industry are precluded from having any control or influence over how the Foundation spends its funds or focuses its activities. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.smokefreeworld.org.